



SB434 SD2
RELATED TO AGRICULTURE
House Committee on Agriculture

April 2, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB434 SD2, which is part of OHA's 2015 Legislative Package. SB434 SD2 promotes the food security, self-sufficiency, and cultural heritage of our islands, by recognizing the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian traditional farming techniques and crops and the growth and development of small farms, as agricultural objectives of the State.

OHA is the constitutionally-established agency responsible for protecting and promoting the rights and interests of Native Hawaiians. Accordingly, OHA has a kuleana to ensure the perpetuation of traditional practices and technologies, as well as advocate for the appropriate and sustainable use and development of our beneficiaries' ancestral lands.

Time-tested Native Hawaiian traditional farming methods represent successful agricultural technologies that are ecologically sustainable, culturally significant, and critical to Hawai'i's long-term food security and self-sufficiency goals. Traditional Native Hawaiian farming techniques, such as loko i'a and lo'i kalo, are integrated into natural ecological systems, and have a minimal impact on our environment while allowing our agricultural resources to remain viable for generations. These agricultural methods and crops are particularly suitable for our climate, and history demonstrates their ability to sustain a population commensurate with that of our islands today. In addition, traditional farming communities act as critical repositories of cultural knowledge and values. Therefore, promoting traditional farming methods and crops also supports the cultural heritage of our state.

Similarly, supporting Hawai'i's small farms, many of which already utilize such traditional farming methods, would also provide a substantial and durable increase in local food production. As noted in this bill, the United Nations Committee on Trade and Development strongly urges the promotion of both traditional farming methods and small farms as an essential response to the threat of climate change to regional food security. The flexibility and resilience of a well-developed small farm network will provide the greatest assurances of a local food supply notwithstanding changing environmental conditions, while also reducing our dependency on imported agricultural products.

In addition, OHA notes that this measure may represent an investment in our islands' economic stability. Small farms are small businesses. Supporting small farming operations in Hawai'i supports our local economy and the spirit of entrepreneurship, in the same manner as supporting other sectors of the small business community.

Finally, this bill levels the playing field for traditional agriculture and small farms, by expressly allowing state agencies to consider these important components of food security and self-sufficiency in supporting programs, leasing lands, and taking other relevant actions. It would ensure that traditional Hawaiian agriculture and small-scale farms are prioritized equally while maintaining the priority for large-scale farming operations that are already recognized in the state planning act. A diversified agriculture portfolio with both small- and large-scale farming operations, along with a variety of crops and farming technologies, will enhance our islands' food security and resilience to unexpected impacts, while also celebrating our cultural heritage and values.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB434 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Only Testimony

Submitted to the

House Committee on Agriculture

Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 10:00 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 434 SD2 – RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, we respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 434 SD2, which updates the State's agricultural planning statute to add the growth and development of traditional Hawaiian farming systems and traditional Hawaiian crops, and the growth and development of small-scale farms, as agricultural objectives.

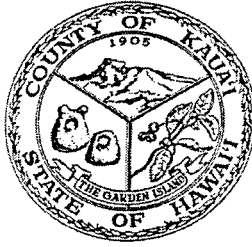
We fully support both inclusion of traditional crops and agricultural practices, and support for small farms in the economic objectives for the State of Hawai'i. The most recent (2012) census documents that 63% of the 7,000 farms in the State are less than 10 acres in size. These very small farms produce family food, vegetables and animal products for local sale and consumption, and such high-value crops as herbs and cut flowers. Further, 88% of our farms are less than 50 acres in size, and would still be considered small by many standards. These small and very small farms represent diversified agriculture in Hawai'i, and in large part are the agricultural clients served by the extension service of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Traditional crops such as taro and breadfruit are nutritious, culturally significant, and viewed as essential components of food security in Hawai'i; and are also now recognized as having great potential value for export as well (e.g., gluten-free breadfruit flour). Traditional agricultural practices are not only valuable means of crop production, but also serve to inform all agricultural development in the Hawaiian Islands.

Thank you for this opportunity to express the support of the University of Hawai'i for SB 434 SD2.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Mason K. Chock
Gary L. Hooser
Arryl Kaneshiro
KipuKai Kualii
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

March 31, 2015

TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 434, SD 2, RELATED TO AGRICULTURE
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, April 2, 2015
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 434, SD 2, relating to Agriculture. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as an individual Councilmember of the Kauai County Council.

The purpose of SB 434, SD 2 is to expand the agricultural objectives of the State to include traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming. It is important for our State to continue its effort in perpetuating and promoting greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security in our islands, which I wholeheartedly support.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

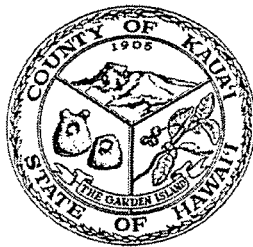
Sincerely,

MASON K. CHOCK
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AB:dmc

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
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Līhū'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 31, 2015

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 434, SD 2, RELATED TO AGRICULTURE
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, April 2, 2015
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 434, SD 2, relating to Agriculture. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as an individual Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council and as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair.

The purpose of SB 434, SD 2 is to expand the agricultural objectives of the State to include traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming. As the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair on the Kaua'i County Council, I wholeheartedly support efforts that perpetuate and promote greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security in our islands.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALI'I
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:dmc



Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth
In Support of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Package Bill SB434 SD2
House Committee on Agriculture
2 April 2015, 10:00am, Room 312

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 60 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) supports the Office of Hawaiian Affairs priority SB434 SD2 to update the State Planning Act's agricultural objectives to support traditional Hawaiian farming techniques and crops, and small farms.

The language proposed by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes the important role of traditional farming and Native Hawaiian cultural practices in building a more sustainable, resilient future for Hawai'i. This bill seeks the promotion and growth of traditional Hawaiian agricultural technologies – including loko i'a (fishponds), māla (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches) – crops, and small-scale farms to perpetuate culture, support disaster preparedness, and food security in a changing climate.

In addition to supporting local agriculture and perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture, **SB434 SD2** will help us to continue building smart sustainable communities and aid in climate resilience. This bill will advance action on the *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'oia*, a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69), and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

We respectfully urge your support for **SB434 SD2**. Mahalo nui for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Audrey" being more prominent than the last name "Newman".

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org/>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 1:07 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB434 on Apr 2, 2015 10:00AM

SB434

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

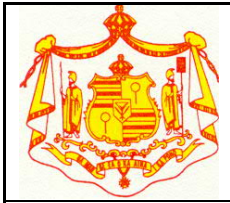
Testimony for AGR on Apr 2, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation SUPPORTS SB 434, SB2, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, which would amend the Hawaii State Plan Objectives and Policies for the Economy, to include traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming. (SB 434, SD2)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SB 434 SD2 RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Thursday, 4/02/15; 10:00 am; Room 312

Aloha Chairman Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and members of the House Committee on Agriculture. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports this bill that will encourage Hawaiian traditional crops and farming methods.

Small scale farming of traditional diversified agriculture will verify the wisdom of growing food suited to the climate and soil conditions of Hawaii. Captain Cook found a healthy and robust population when he came upon the islands two centuries ago. Those native crops are still available to modern Hawaii and should become part of our sustainable food source and production.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

Contact: Jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 5:10 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB434 on Apr 2, 2015 10:00AM*

SB434

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGR on Apr 2, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 5:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: robertl@oha.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB434 on Apr 2, 2015 10:00AM*

SB434

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGR on Apr 2, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert K. Lindsey, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB434 on Apr 2, 2015 10:00AM*

SB434

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGR on Apr 2, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

LATE

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate, Executive Director (AMAC)

Before the House Committee on
Agriculture

Thursday, April 2, 2015
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In SUPPORT of Senate Bill 434 SD2

Relating to Agriculture

Senate Bill 434 SD 2 includes traditional Hawaiian farming systems, traditional Hawaiian crops, and small-scale farming to the Hawaii State Plan objectives and policies for the economy. **The Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) strongly supports this bill.**

The Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 43 moku and 587 ahupua'a. The foundation of the Aha Moku is working with, and empowering those with native Hawaiian generational knowledge of resource sustainability that is site specific. Much of this knowledge translates into traditional farming techniques that sustain the land through crops that are in balance with the natural resources of the site.

We believe that this bill is necessary and long-overdue. It will bring a much needed understanding of how Native Hawaiian *mahiai* public trust resources and programs directly and beneficially impact Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and farming methods such as loko'ia (fishponds), irrigated lo'i, dry land lo'i and natural resource protection. This bill will ultimately strengthen the agricultural objectives of the State of Hawaii.

We humbly ask that this Committee pass HB 434 SD 2.